

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
GROUND SCAR WITH SMALL PIT NORTH OF LANDFILL NO. 3, PARCEL 155(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

NOVEMBER 2001

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the

Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 155(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 155(7) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In

addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 155(7)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2001, *Final Site Investigation Report, Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, November.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

QST Environmental, Inc. (QST), 1998, *Final Site Investigation Work Plan, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, March.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000, *Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories*, Office of Water, EPA 822-B-00-001, Summer.

connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(7), is located approximately 100 feet west of Gobbler Road in the extreme northwest corner of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). Aerial photographs taken in 1964 reveal a ground scar roughly oval in shape at a location north of Landfill No. 3. At the time of the environmental baseline survey (EBS) site visit in 1998, the site was observed to be heavily wooded and designated with signs: "Off Limits Except for Training" (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). The EBS field team discovered a single well-defined pit measuring

approximately 4 feet wide, 4 feet long, and 1 foot deep. The pit and signs appeared to post-date the ground scar. The EBS field team stated that the pit resembled an archeological test pit. Several other poorly defined depressions were also observed during the site visit. No evidence of disposal activities was observed during the SI site visit. No other information was available regarding activities at this site (ESE, 1998).

Parcel 155(7) is approximately 120 feet wide by 240 feet long and covers an area of approximately 0.5 acres. Site elevation is approximately 730 feet above mean sea level.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the EBS (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into

standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Parcel 155(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the EBS. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or that require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 155(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Telephone: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library

9th Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

SITE INVESTIGATION

IT Corporation (IT) completed an SI at the Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(7), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2001). As part of the SI, IT incorporated data previously collected at the site by QST Environmental, Inc. (QST).

QST collected four surface soil samples and two subsurface soil samples during the SI at the site. In addition, IT installed three permanent monitoring wells and

collected groundwater samples from each the wells. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, herbicides (soils only), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), nitroaromatic explosives, and total organic carbon (soils only).

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being

performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

The potential impact to human receptors is expected to be minimal. Although the site is projected for active recreation reuse, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted land reuse. The metals that exceeded SSSLs in site media were below their respective background concentrations and, therefore, do not pose an unacceptable risk to

future human receptors. VOC, SVOC, pesticide, and herbicide concentrations in site media were below SSSLs except for one pesticide in one groundwater sample. Neither PCBs nor explosive compounds were detected in any of the samples collected at the site

One pesticide (aldrin) was detected in one groundwater sample at an estimated concentration (0.000031 milligrams per liter [mg/L]) exceeding its SSSL (0.0000039 mg/L). The pesticide was not detected in any of the other samples collected at the site. Although an EPA drinking water standard does not exist for aldrin, the pesticide's estimated concentration was below established EPA health advisory values (EPA, 2000). Based on its low estimated concentration and lack of distribution at the site, it is concluded that exposure to aldrin in groundwater does not represent an unacceptable human health risk.

The potential threat to ecological receptors is also expected to be low. The metals that exceeded ESVs were below their respective background concentrations or within the range of background values. Two VOCs (tetrachloroethene and trichloroethene) and two herbicides (dichloroprop and 4-chloro-2-methylphenoxyacetic acid [MCPA]) exceeded ESVs in surface soils. The concentrations of trichloroethene and MCPA, however, were estimated at levels close to their respective reporting limits. In addition, the dichloroprop result was flagged with a "B" data qualifier indicating that the compound was also detected in a laboratory method

blank sample. The concentration of tetrachloroethene (0.013 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) was within the same order of magnitude as its ESV (0.010 mg/kg). Therefore, these compounds are not expected to pose a significant threat to ecological receptors.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 155(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Furthermore, Parcel 155(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(3) (formerly Parcel 155[7]).

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	\$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	\$0
Present Worth Cost:	\$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

DECLARATION

Remedial action is unnecessary at the Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(3) (formerly Parcel 155[7]). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel, or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Parcel 155(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Ground Scar with Small Pit North of Landfill No. 3, Parcel 155(3) (formerly Parcel 155[7]).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments
concerning this Decision
Document or other documents in
the administrative record can be
directed to:

Mr. Ronald M. Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail: LevyR@mcclellan-
emh2.army.mil

ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EBS	environmental baseline survey
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
MCPA	4-chloro-2-methylphenoxyacetic acid
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
QST	QST Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

Ellis Pope
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

Date

Reviewed by:

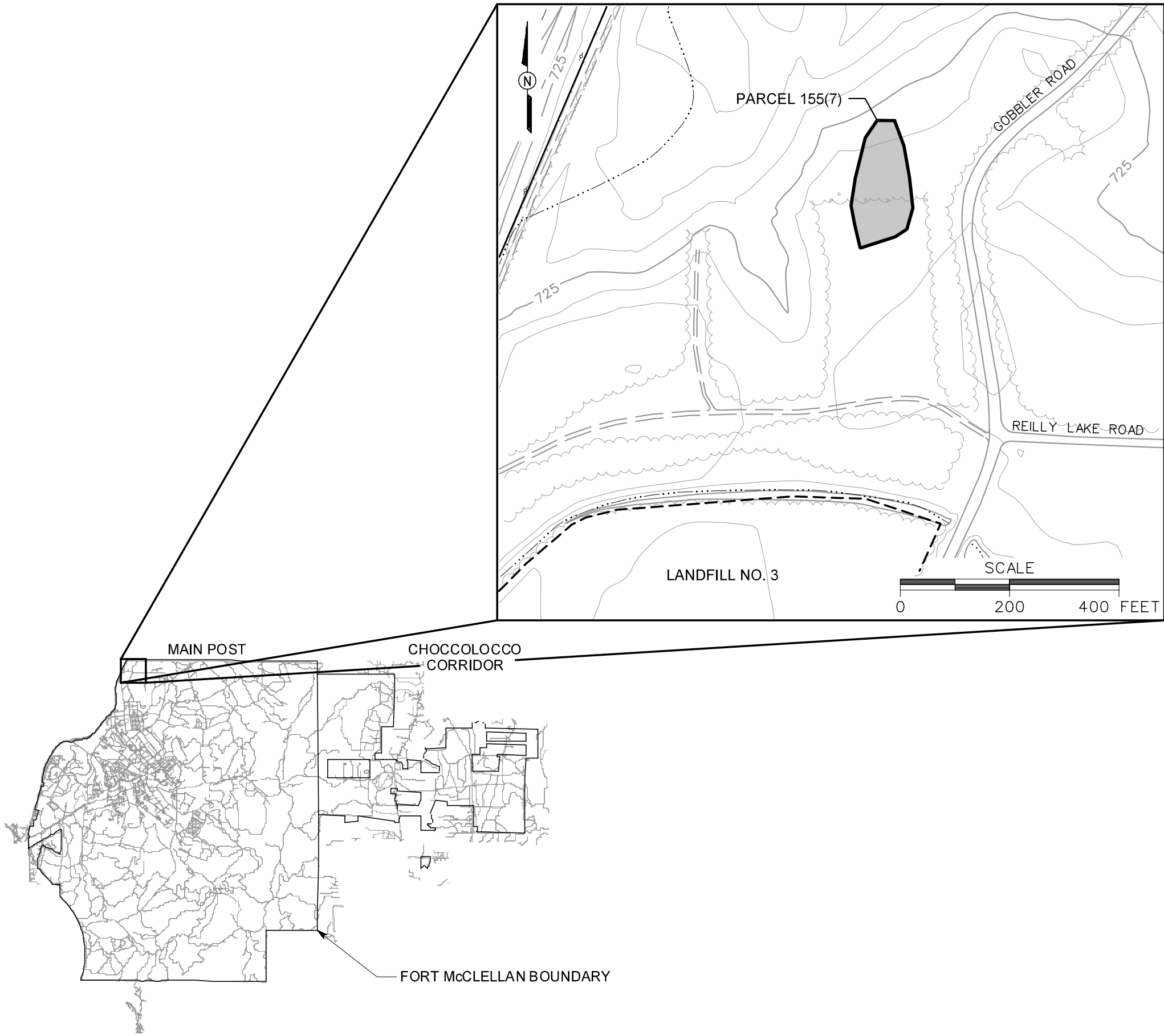
Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approved by:

Glynn D. Ryan
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date



LEGEND

UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING

PAVED ROADS AND PARKING

TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
(CONTOUR INTERVAL - 5 FOOT)

TREES / TREELINE

PARCEL BOUNDARY

SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK

FENCE

UTILITY POLE

FIGURE 1

SITE MAP

GROUND SCAR WITH SMALL PIT

NORTH OF LANDFILL NO. 3

PARCEL 155(7)

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MOBILE DISTRICT

FORT McCLELLAN

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018